

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND BRUCE MIROGLIO

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to our guest chaplain, Deacon Bruce Miroglio.

Deacon Miroglio serves in The St. Helena Catholic Church, my church in my hometown. It is where I was baptized, received my First Communion, was confirmed, and where Jan and I renewed our wedding vows.

I was born, grew up, and still live in our community, in the community that the deacon serves, so I know personally how deeply he cares for our community and how much he and our church have given back to our town.

Growing up, Bruce didn't know if he wanted to be a priest or a lawyer, so he took the sage advice of "when you have a choice between two great things, take them both."

In both careers, he has embodied selflessness, compassion, and quiet generosity. He has guided people through challenging times, comforted them in times of grief, always pursued righteousness, and has never wavered in his devotion to bettering the lives of others.

St. Helena is blessed to have him today; and today, we, in the House, are equally as blessed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to

15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE SO-CALLED STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

(Mr. GIBSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, I will be voting against H.R. 589, the so-called Student Success Act. Although there are some positive reforms regarding empowerment of local schools that my constituents support in the bill, major problems with the bill remain.

For example, sadly, we have done nothing to roll back the onerous high-stakes testing regime that has led to a "teaching to the test" culture in our schools, and I want my parents, teachers, administrators, and students to know that I am listening and taking action.

I offered a bipartisan amendment to roll back to pre-No Child Left Behind levels testing requirements. Essentially, it would have cut Federal testing requirements in half that we hope would have been a catalyst for States to cut their tests as well, but for the second straight year, that amendment has been ruled out of order, despite the fact that this is so important to the American people.

The fight continues. As this bill moves to the Senate, we have allies there that are interested in empowerment and properly resourcing schools, and I look forward to working with them to get in the bill that the American people will support and we can enact.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I can't believe we are actually here. In just 48 hours, the Department of Homeland Security will shut down. In this day and age, with so many threats facing Americans and the rest of the civilized world, how can our colleagues even contemplate allowing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down?

In just the past couple of months, we have seen terrorist attacks in Denmark and Paris and, just yesterday, arrests in New York of individuals charged with supporting foreign terrorist organizations.

The failure to fund the Department of Homeland Security will put American lives at risk—and all to try to prove a political point.

Tying legislation against the President's executive order on immigration to the essential funding that pays the hardworking men and women, the extraordinary professionals that keep us safe, is reckless and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, take up a clean DHS funding bill that will pass both Cham-

bers and be signed by the President immediately, and let's get back to the work many of us came here to do: strengthening our middle class, growing paychecks, and creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

REMEMBERING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, which took place on February 25–26, 1992.

On this evening, 23 years ago, it was the site of a cowardly massacre of 613 unarmed Azerbaijani citizens, which included 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly. Despite the attempts to minimize this tragedy, I stand in memory with the Azerbaijani Caucus to remember the loss.

The United States and Azerbaijan share a bipartisan and a strong relationship. As a former commander in the Navy SEALs, I know firsthand the importance of Azerbaijan's commitment.

Aside from deploying troops and equipment to Afghanistan, over one-third of nonlethal aid that was used by our troops in Afghanistan flowed through Azerbaijan.

President Kennedy once said that America would pay any price and bear any burden in the defense of liberty. I am proud that Azerbaijan and America share the same commitment to freedom and liberty.

It is important today that we take this moment to join our Azerbaijani allies in liberty in recognizing the Khojaly tragedy.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago, as the lines of the Soviet Union were fading, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh were united in a call for a say in their own futures and greater independence from Azerbaijan. This peaceful movement for self-determination and freedom was followed by premeditated and government-sponsored attacks.

Over the next 2 years, the Armenian population in the territory of Artsakh

was repeatedly victim to brutal and racially-motivated pogroms, darkly reminiscent of the days of the Armenian genocide. Hundreds were murdered, thousands were displaced, and the Armenian community, both in Artsakh and in exile, continues to bear the scars from the brutal attacks in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku.

When the people of Nagorno-Karabakh officially declared independence on December 10, 1991, they were met with full-scale war lasting until 1994. Even today, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are still forced to live under constant cease-fire violations by Azerbaijan.

As we commemorate the somber anniversary marking the struggle of the Nagorno-Karabakh people, we wish for the peaceful resolution of this conflict and hope that its citizens will be free to determine their own future.

REMEMBERING MIDDLE EAST BELIEVERS KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks, the Islamic State has targeted religious minorities throughout the Middle East, including the Yazidis in Iraq and the 21 Coptic Christians executed in Libya.

This week, ISIS has abducted more than 200 Assyrian Christians. We pray earnestly for their release and for comfort for their families.

These murderers want us to tremble at their physical brutality, but an even more sinister violence is at work, a sustained and strategic campaign against religious freedom. This is the God-given freedom to hold any belief—or none at all—without coercion or reprisal.

Global attention is and should be transfixed on those killed for their faith in the Middle East; yet more than three-quarters of the world's population lives under regimes that restrict belief.

Our Nation's first freedom is not and should not be bound by geography or nation. We must defend religious freedom at all times and in all places, or this violent cycle will continue.

FUND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in urging the GOP leadership to advance legislation that will keep the American people safe by continuing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Just yesterday, with the arrest of three suspects in New York City planning to assist terror groups or join ISIS, we see the continuing imperative of a vibrant homeland security effort.

In a matter of hours, funding for the Department will expire, thereby forcing thousands of essential employees to put their lives on the line without pay. State and local law enforcement operations will be among the hardest hit if we allow funding to lapse.

By bringing a clean spending bill to the floor, we have the power to prevent the dangerous partial shutdown of the government. Our Nation's security is at stake here, and another day of inaction by this Congress is unacceptable. Let's vote on a clean spending bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out the mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

HONORING RENE GAGNON ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice demonstrated by our marines, specifically Corporal Rene Gagnon, a Granite Stater, during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Gagnon was selected and participated in what is arguably the most celebrated American flag raising in our Nation's history.

Immortalized by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal, six U.S. Marines, including Corporal Gagnon, raised the colors above Mount Suribachi on the fifth day of the month-long battle for Iwo Jima.

Born to immigrants from Quebec, Gagnon grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and left in 1943 after being drafted. He elected to join the United States Marine Corps.

As part of Operation Detachment, a total of 92,000 men, 70,000 Americans, and 22,000 Japanese, fought to secure Iwo Jima, a tiny island controlled by the Japanese that was no larger than one-third the size of Manhattan.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Iwo Jima, let us take a moment to honor Corporal Gagnon and the rest of our Nation's Greatest Generation who fought bravely to secure and preserve our Nation's democracy during World War II.

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PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the history and

legacy of the Pullman community of Chicago.

Last week, President Obama designated Pullman as a national monument, ensuring that Pullman's heritage as an industrial innovator and labor leader lives on.

Pullman played a vital role in our Nation's labor and civil rights movements. It is the birthplace of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, our Nation's first Black labor union, and it was a major battleground in the national fight for fair wages and safe working conditions.

I thank the countless dedicated people who worked with me and before me to make this designation possible. Pullman National Monument will preserve Pullman's legacy and ensure that the community will continue to thrive for generations to come.

FCC EXPANDING AUTHORITY OVER INTERNET

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this administration's continued policy of governing from behind closed doors and using the executive branch to take more freedom away from the American people.

Today the Federal Communications Commission will vote for an unprecedented expansion of its authority over the Internet, without providing any public discourse on the details of the proposal.

What we do know about this government invasion into the Internet is deeply troubling. The Internet has been a source of great creativity, investment, and economic growth, an area of freedom, where innovation has flourished and entrepreneurs, startups, and anyone with an idea has opportunity.

What is Washington's answer to this booming marketplace? Government control and regulation.

One of the Commissioners has referred to it as "a solution that won't work to a problem that doesn't exist." This is deeply troubling.

I know of no industry that has become more vibrant, more free, or led to more innovation after a government takeover. Allowing the FCC to designate the Internet a regulated utility will increase taxes and allow government to decide pricing, cost, content, or anything else. This is the camel's nose under the tent.

The FCC should release its proposals and allow the American people back behind its closed doors.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there are just 2 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts